3. Ropar
4. Ferozepur

Rajasthan

1. Dhungarpur
2. Pali
3. Udaipur
4. Alwar
5. Kota
6. Chittorgarh

Sikkim

1. North Sikkim
2. South Sikkim
3. West Sikkim

Tamil Nadu

1. Madras
2. Madurai
3. Nilgiris
4. North Arcot
5. Thirunelveli Kottaboman
6. Dindigul
7. Tanjore
8. Trichy
9. Vallalar
10. Salem
11. Villapuram Ramasamy Padyachiar

Tripura

1. South Tripura—HQ. Udaipur

Uttar Pradesh

1. Agra
2. Allahabad
3. Kanpur
4. Sultanpur
5. Sonebhadra—HQ. Robertsganj
6. Dehradun
7. Chamoli
8. Nainital
9. Ghaziabad
10. Deoria
11. Moradabad
12. Saharanpur
13. Meerut
14. Muzaffarnagar

Union Territories

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1. Andamans

Chandigarh

1. Chandigarh

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Delhi

1. Delhi

Lakshadweep

1. Lakshadweep

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry.

National Watershed Development Project

3141. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Watershed Development Project for rainfed area has not made any progress;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the progress made in terms of financial utilization and achievements made since 1995-96 till date under the project, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. An area of 42.47 lakh ha. has been treated spending Rs. 1010.06 crores under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area

(NWDPRA) since 1990-91 against the target of 28.00 lakh ha. An amount of Rs. 226.55 crores and Rs. 203.40 crores have been utilized during 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

[Translation]

Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme

3142. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme and the progress made under the same, so far;

(b) whether this scheme is likely to be implemented in all the districts of the country; and

(c) if so, the fund earmarked for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 250 Crores have been earmarked in the current years Budget for Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme. The details of the Scheme are under finalisation.

[English]

Loss to FCI Due to Diversion of Wheat

3143. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wheat diversion results big loss to the State Exchequer" appearing in the 'Indian Express' of March 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether wheat meant for domestic use was exported at lower prices by the Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have conducted an enquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the points appearing in the 'Indian Express' of March 30, 1997 and the comments of this Ministry thereon is given in the Statement attached.

(c) FCI has not exported any quantity of wheat during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(d) to (g) As FCI has not exported any quantity of wheat, the question of conducting an enquiry in this regard and taking action against the guilty officials of FCI does not arise. However, Punjab and Haryana High Court *vide* its order dated 24.7.1997 has ordered a probe into the alleged irregularities in the Open Market Sale Scheme (D) in Punjab and Haryana.

Statement

Summary of the Points Appearing in Indian Express of 30.3.97	Comments
1	2
(i) Diversion of wheat meant for domestic consumption to export	Various precautions were incorporated in the guidelines issued by this Ministry on 26.8.96 to minimise sale to take parties, diversion from domestic use to export. The involvement of the State Government was also envisaged to keep a watch on the allottees of open sale. As envisaged in the guidelines dated 26.8.96, the buyers have also been asked by FCI to give an undertaking that wheat lifted under OMSS (D) is utilised for domestic sale purposes. In case, as alleged, the wheat issued under OMSS (D) has been recycled by the buyers for export, it was the matter of the concerned State Government to enforce such laws, food being the State subject. However, FCI has already investigated several cases wherein officers/officials of the Corporation have been found with any kind of malafide, suitable action has already been taken/initiated against them as per the procedure.